

FILE NAME: General Electric (GE)

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Reviewer's Notes on Advance Copy of "Protection Against Dust Hazards in Air-Pressure Abrasive Blasting"



The advance copy of your program for "Protection Against Dust Hazards in Air-Pressure Abrasive Blasting," has been carefully and repeatedly read. This compilation is praiseworthy, and perhaps represents the best single program yet devised. As is true in all such cases, a number of unfavorable criticisms may be made, but in this instance the good far outweighs the objectionable.

✓ In ITEM ONE, "Choice of Abrasive," the chief objections to steel abrasive appears not to have been mentioned. This objection is related to castings later to be machined. Hard steel particles, caught in angles of castings or otherwise retained, are prone to break or damage machine tools later applied. Your report has encompassed this possibility in such language as "where feasible," and later "without sacrifice of economy and efficiency."

✓ In ITEM THREE, you refer to sandblasting tables, and imply that these may be made dust-proof, or essentially so. I do not share with you an equal degree of enthusiasm for this method. The curtains are continually being lifted up with parts lying on the rotating table, and especially so if the parts being blasted are large.

✓ In ITEM FIVE, you refer to automatically fed blasting rooms. As best I can determine, you do not make mention of the fully automatic machines designed for small castings. Many of these are in use, with seemingly satisfactory results, both in terms of cleaning and in dust-proofing. Perhaps these should be mentioned in the National Safety Council publication.

Apparently, no mention is made of hydraulic blasting. It is true that this method of casting cleaning is not in extensive use.





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Cleansing with water, after abrasive, with or without a sand content, has proven to be practical. In some instances, drying may be required to prevent rust, but inquiry has established that rust on castings does not disturb many foundrymen. This method at least should be mentioned as one possibility of eliminating silica dust.

In industrial hygiene work, all of us are prone to work out methods of protection that still leave a great deal to be accomplished by the factory superintendent or foreman. Sometimes so much is left to the practical factory man that little is accomplished. I am often guilty of this sort of defection, which, of course, arises from the lack of detailed information that only may be obtained after months of experience in an industry, and sometimes years therein. It is my general opinion that your program, if turned over to a superintendent in a foundry, would create a considerable number of new problems. For example, in section three - "Sand Blast Tables" - I find this sentence "The chief essential in the use of this device is the upkeep of the split curtains upon whose efficiency its whole success depends" All this is granted; but just how this is to be accomplished is not so manifest.

By all means your material should be published. It represents one more step toward a dust-proof millennium.

